Remarks on the Explosion in Eastern Poland and an Exchange With Reporters in Bali, Indonesia

November 15, 2022

The President. Thanks for being here. I—as you saw, I just met with the leaders of NATO and the G-7 and—to talk about the latest events in Europe, and I briefed them on my discussions with President Duda of Poland, as well as NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg. And we agreed to support Poland's investigation into the explosion in rural Poland, near the Ukrainian border. And I'm going to make sure we figure out exactly what happened.

Our empathy—sympathy goes out to—apparently, two people were killed.

And then we're going to collectively determine our next step as we investigate and proceed. There was total unanimity among the folks at the table.

And we also discussed the latest series of Russian missile attacks, which are continuing the brutality and inhumanity that they've demonstrated throughout this war against Ukrainian cities and civilian infrastructures. And it's—they've been totally unconscionable, what they're doing. Totally unconscionable.

And the moment when the world had come together at the G–20 to urge deescalation, Russia continues to—has chosen to escalate in Ukraine, while we're meeting. I mean, there were scores and scores of attacks—missile attacks into western Ukraine.

We support Ukraine fully in this moment, and we have since the start of this conflict. And we're going to continue to do whatever it takes to give them the capacity to defend themselves.

Explosion in Eastern Poland/Russia

Q. Mr. President, is it too early to say whether this missile was fired from Russia?

The President. There is preliminary information that contests that. I don't want to say that until we completely investigate. But it is—I—it's unlikely, in the minds of the trajectory, that it was fired from Russia. But we'll see. We'll see.

Q. Unlikely, sir?

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

O. Mr. President, has Poland suggested invoking article 4 or 5 from NATO, sir?

The President. The consensus is, we're going to probably have a meeting of the Ambassadors. So that's—it looks like we're going to go do next.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:53 a.m. outside the Grand Hyatt Bali hotel. In his remarks, he referred to grain warehouse foreman Boguslaw Wos and tractor driver Bogdan Ciupek, who were killed in the explosion in Przewodów, Poland, on November 15.

Categories: Addresses and Remarks: Easter Poland explosion, remarks in Bali, Indonesia; Interviews With the News Media: Exchanges with reporters, Bali, Indonesia.

Locations: Bali, Indonesia.

Names: Ciupek, Bogdan; Duda, Andrzej; Stoltenberg, Jens; Wos, Boguslaw.

Subjects: Group of Seven (G-7) nations; Group of Twenty (G-20) nations; Indonesia, President Biden's visit; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Poland, explosion in Przewodów; Poland, President; Russia, conflict in Ukraine; Ukraine, Russian invasion and airstrikes; Ukraine, U.S. assistance.

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